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**The ballot is
in the mail**

Wainfleet voters relying on Canada Post.
Page 10

**PowerBlades
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Wind turbine parts manufacturer puts
out the welcome mat.
Page 11

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HOSPITALS: Internet access will now cost patients, visitors

NHS charging for Wi-Fi



VECTOR_MASTER - FOTOLIA

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

Being able to surf the Internet has made Sharon Feamster's four-hour medical procedures at Welland hospital every month a little more bearable.

But Feamster said if getting web access means paying for it, then she'll go without.

"I feel like it should be free because sick people are pay-

ing enough for parking and treatments that aren't paid for," the Welland woman said.

Niagara Health System quietly rolled out a new pay-for-use Wi-Fi Internet fee structure last week at its six sites across the region.

Employees only pay for personal use of the service. Any-one visiting the hospital will. A full day's worth of access will cost \$9.95, while other pack-

ages range from \$5.95 for four hours up to \$47.95 per month. All of the prices are subject to tax. A credit card or PayPal account is required.

"The parking is gouging people. Now these poor people will go in and they'll be left twiddling their thumbs waiting," Feamster said.

See Wi-Fi on Page 2

Tablet

Margaret Ann GIGANTI
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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■ #NIAGARAVOTES: Former Wainfleet mayor wants her seat back

'I haven't seen true leadership skills'

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

She was down and out by 300 votes when electors last chose their mayor in 2010.

Now Barbara Henderson is back in the ring, bent on returning to Wainfleet's top political post.

"I think I'm running with my eyes wide open this time — I'm certainly aware of what's going on in the community," she says.

"It's not an easy job — and I'm aware of that — but it's certainly one that I enjoy."

Henderson, following one term as alderman, topped Gord Harry in the 2006 election, and lost her bid for a mayoral repeat to political newcomer April Jeffs, who also faces competition from Laurie Dayboyl and Dale Tucker.

I want to use my past experience and leadership skills to advocate for Wainfleet with a strong



GREG FURMINGER/STAFF PHOTO

"It's not an easy job — and I'm aware of that — but it's certainly one that I enjoy," says Barbara Henderson, who looks to return to Wainfleet's mayor's office after losing her re-election bid in 2010.

but respectful voice," the 59-year-old Henderson says.

Securing funds from other levels of government — municipally and with Queen's Park and Ottawa — is crucial to meeting the infrastructure needs of a municipality handcuffed by a small operating budget,

she says.

"Funding is going to be key if we're able to do those projects."

Along the same lines of thinking, she says Wainfleet must look into areas for cost savings, review municipal staffing and entertain partnerships with its neighbours.

She believes her past track record is an asset in doing just that.

"I've been dissatisfied with the leadership the past few years," Henderson says.

"I haven't seen true leadership skills — lack of decision-making and poor communications with all residents."

The rural community cannot rely simply on social media and the township's out-of-date website, she says, suggesting regular newsletters to taxpayers may also be an option for the next four years.

And while keeping taxpayers up to speed, the same must be done, she says, for elected officials.

"We need to create a strong council that can make well-informed decisions" based on input from all sides of an issue, she says, but later adding "sometimes we'll have to agree to disagree."

Some of her goals include a

review and overhaul of bylaws, and making sure there's a simple way people can find them, and supporting the local and ever-changing agriculture industry and pushing for its growth.

On the campaign trail so far, Henderson says there's been much less talk about the lake-shore's water concerns and of wind turbines. On the latter, she offers no personal opinion at the door, but instead explains that wind energy is a provincial jurisdiction, and that the municipality's role is to raise comments and concerns of its residents. It is not an issue to challenge with minimal local tax dollars.

It's the "little things" that seem to be on people's minds for this election, such as roadside cutting, snow plowing, representation at the Region, communications.

"There doesn't seem to be any big key issues."

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■ WI-FI

Revenue goes into patient care, equipment

From Page 1

The new fees are part of upgraded Internet service across the NHS called iVisitor, which is operated through Cogeco Cable. All six sites now have the new system, which allows the Internet access to work in nearly every spot of all of the hospitals.

"It was a fear for a bit while we got all of our processes in place, but the idea was always to charge for Wi-Fi," said Derek McNally, the NHS executive vice-president, clinical services and chief nursing executive.

He said the fees are similar to what's offered at hospitals in Hamilton, Burlington and elsewhere in Ontario. Locally, Hotel Dieu Shaver in St. Catharines still provides free Internet access to its patients, staff and visitors.

"The main reason (for the pay-for-use system) is it's a revenue generator for the hospitals," McNally said. "The money we receive from that revenue goes directly back into patient care and equipment. The public has told us Wi-Fi is a valuable service to them, but we need the revenue to provide that."

Feamster is three and a half years into recovery from major surgery and will have to continue the medical treatments in Welland every month for the next two years. She said the \$10 per day fee is "way too much."

"I won't use it if I have to pay for it," she said.

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■ #NIAGARAVOTES: Wainfleet mayoral contender pushing for better policy and communications

'Let's get the bang for our buck': Dayboyl

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Laurie Dayboyl wants everyone in Wainfleet to be on the same page.

And that may mean a major review of municipal policies, and developing an effective communications strategy.

While it may be "boring" subject matter, "it's those basic things council needs to take care of," she says.

"Let's get back to the basics," Dayboyl says, citing a need for "responsible spending and reliable policy building."

Information flowing to residents needs to be "available, current and concise."

One of her complaints is that the town's bylaws are difficult to find on a poorly developed website and some of what is online is outdated.

For Dayboyl, who was the

lead on the township's re-drawing project, for years has worked as a municipal "elections professional," ensuring that things run smoothly when it's voting time.

This is the 52-year-old's first time stepping into the political arena.

"If anything, my career has been non-political. Now I find myself on the other side of the fence."

Her decision to shoot for the top elected spot is driven also by a need to have effective representation in Niagara Region's council chambers. There, she says, Wainfleet voice "needs to be very clear and very strong."

Because of its limited abilities to increase revenues, the township must explore more opportunities for partnerships with other municipalities, and must particularly ensure it's maximizing its use of regional

services.

"We invest in them, let's get the bang for our buck," she says.

"Everything I hear at the door is, 'Please, spend our money wisely.'"

Dayboyl says the township council must take a clear look at objectives and priorities to determine a path for infrastructure improvements.

Also, Wainfleet needs to be educated and ready for doing its part with a recently developed strategy for the health of the Great Lakes, she says.

"I really do have a passion for public trust — earning it and honouring it."

She says she feels "to different degrees" that trust was not honoured by the current mayor, April Jeffs. For one, she points to the way a decision was initially made by her council to back a private company's legal battles



GREG FURMINGER/STAFF PHOTO

"I really do have a passion for public trust — earning it and honouring it," says Laurie Dayboyl, who hopes to unseat Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs in the Oct. 27 election.

on turbines with taxpayer money.

She says taxpayers aren't being properly engaged, and suggested municipal policies — some which she says lack substance and definition —

are not being followed.

"I don't think that kind of leadership for the next four years is fine."

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■ #NIAGARAVOTES2014: Wainfleet's mayor aims for a second term

'Too much energy in me to go now,' Jeffs says

GREN FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

When April Jeffs threw her hat into the ring to become Wainfleet's mayor, she had no political experience.

It's been a learning curve. Now she says she's more confident than ever that she's the best person to fight for "flectors."

"I had its highs and lows over the four years, there's no doubt about that," she says as her first term winds down.

"I was accused of being a one-issue mayor, but I think I've proved that it's not the case."

Her highs include getting improved paramedic care for residents, and an alternative solution to the upper-tier municipality's proposed Big Pipe plan in

the lakeshore area that remains under a best-water advisory.

She says the township didn't incur any more debt under her leadership, it wrapped up its official plan and it secured access to Lakewood Beach property in a deal involving the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

But Jeffs, who wants to continue as vice-chair of the NPCA, has found herself under fire for the Lakewood transaction. Most of her critics, however, point to the approach her council took on the controversial wind turbine issue, including a resulting and costly lawsuit and a decision — which was later reversed — to provide public money to help a private

business battle a turbine project in court.

Whether that influences voters — "We'll see," Jeffs says.

But at the time, she adds, she felt it was important to fight to "protect our municipality."

But it's clear, local municipalities have been handcuffed by the province when it comes to turbines.

"I think most people would be on the same page (now) that we're not going to throw any more money at it."

In the future, the 41-year-old photographer wants to focus

attention on a number of issues that include a need to press for hydro rate stabilization and preservation of south Niagara's hospital services.

As far as municipal staffing is concerned, Jeffs said she believes Wainfleet is "as lean as we can go" without impacting on the services it delivers — services for which, she says, there have been no complaints.

Wainfleet needs to look for a "slow increase" in the commercial tax base, she says, and the township must work closely with Niagara Region's economic develop-

ment office, especially to better market the enterprises that are established in Wainfleet and to attract new ones, particularly in agricultural.

"I see that Wainfleet can sometimes be dismissed because we're the smallest (population)," she says. "We have to continue to bring our issues to the forefront."

She says she'll be a strong voice for taxpayers at the table.

"I feel I have far too much energy in me to go now."

gref.furninger@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @GrefTheFib

■ #NIAGARAVOTES2014

Tucker believes wind turbines are Wainfleet's biggest issue

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

Dale Tucker isn't against green energy, but he doesn't want to walk outside the door of his Wainfleet home to the sight of wind turbines.

"I feel solar is the way to go. In Europe, windmills are all around and there's not a house in sight. There are hundreds of windmills, but you look for a house and you don't see them," said Tucker, who is campaigning to be elected the mayor of Wainfleet.

The former Niagara Region environmental services employee, who has been running a Great Dane dog breeding business for 17 years, said he doesn't like to run for mayor because he didn't like "the path we were taking and the money being spent."

He said wind turbines are Wainfleet's biggest issue — not so much whether or not the township should host them, but the money that was spent on legal fees fighting to stop them from being built.

"A lot of taxpayers don't even know how much was spent on the wind turbines or the Easter Isles property," he said, referring to a controversial deal with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to acquire beachfront land from a private developer.

Tucker said, if elected, he would immediately start working with the provincial government to address the wind turbine concerns of township residents.

He's worried the turbines built near Station Rd could be a hazard in the winter.

"If there's ice build up and it shears

DALE TUCKER

Age: 50

Occupation: Retired from Niagara Region environmental services

Family: Tucker family has been in Wainfleet dating back to 1833.
Contact info: 289-523-2029; votedale@tuckerformayor@gmail.com; Twitter @daleformayor; Facebook "Dale Tucker for Mayor"

Read more about the candidate at www.wellandtribune.ca


off those blades, it's going to carry the length of the road. Hopefully no one gets hurt," he said.

But Tucker said there are issues outside of the turbine debate that need to be addressed.


"Our roads are deteriorating. We're going to have to look at the infrastructure and start spending money wisely," he said.

He also feels building a new south Niagara hospital in Niagara Falls is a mistake.

"It's great for Niagara Falls, but it's certainly not going to help Wainfleet and Port Colborne out," he said. "To me, it would make the most sense to put the new hospital at the end of Hwy. 140 where the infrastructure is already done to look after it. If you put it in Niagara Falls, there will probably be another \$20 million in infrastructure."






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- ✓ **I WILL** work with Council to put together a 4 year plan of reduced spending, financial growth and infrastructure repair that will limit tax increases
- ✓ **I WILL** not spend your money like it grows on trees, and **I WILL listen** to the concerns of residents and their families and businesses!



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Humour is good medicine

GORD ARRIHAN
Port Colborne Baptist Church

Everyone needs a good laugh to keep their blood pressure under control and to keep a proper perspective on life.

That's what many doctors say. I inherited a fairly good sense of humour from my parents, but have to really work at it during some of the more stressful moments in my life. The result of looking for humour in life situations is always beneficial for me and, certainly better for others who have to live with me. We all keep a healthier frame of mind.

My Mom's great sense of humour was characteristic of all her family. As a little kid, it was always a treat to be with all of them, taking in their laughter, joking, fun and silliness. My mom's brother, Earl, who worked all of his career in a high pressure company, said to me, "I did not have a sense of humour, I

would have gone crazy in this business long ago."

Mom's joyful, fun-loving attitude helped her during the time of my dad's nine-year struggle with Alzheimer's. As his full-time caregiver, she found it very difficult looking after him, as he became more and more confused. In spite of the strain, and without making fun of his illness, she tried to laugh about some of my dad's words, actions and exaggerated idiosyncrasies.

Actress Audrey Hepburn said, "I love people who make me laugh. I honestly think it's the thing I like most... to laugh. It cures a multitude of ills. It's probably the most important thing in a person."

Dad was becoming notorious for hiding things, and Mom would always be searching through the house for keys, money or anything else he tried to hide to protect it from "those people who are robbing him blind". One day, my mom was flustered because she could not find her eyeglasses and assumed

that Dad had hidden them somewhere. They were the very large, round glasses that looked like huge windows. Because they were to be on their way to a meeting she, in frustration, said, "Let's just get going."

When she got to the car with him, she looked to the passenger side, and there, perched on Dad's nose, were her glasses. She told me later, "I could have cried, but I decided to laugh and have a cry at the same time." She even got a laugh out of Dad.

On the last day of his life, before his fatal stroke, Dad and I were together and he was telling me about not having any money. He lamented, "I don't have two nickels to rub together." When I was ready to leave for home, he pressed two \$20 bills into my hand. I looked in his wallet... it was filled with 20s. I laughed. Still laughing, I reminded him of his former statement "people are stealing my money and I don't have two nickels to rub together." Again, still laughing, I blurted out, "Dad, I see a

couple hundred bucks in your wallet." He experienced a brief, lucid moment, raised his eyebrows and shrugged his shoulders. Mom and I looked at each other laughing while Dad stood there with a sly smile on his face.

The biblical author of Proverbs wrote, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22) God has gifted us with humour and laughter as a healthy response to life's daily struggles. Smile, laugh, and give others this priceless gift!

Bill Cosby, the comedian known by most anyone over 45 years old, said, "Through humor, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it."

Charles Dickens, the famous author, declared, "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour."

Shipwrecks – Chemical Mar

SKIP GILLHAM
For QMI Agency Niagara

The tanker *Chemical Mar* sustained severe damage while unloading sulphuric acid at Willemstad, Curaçao, on March 21, 1982.

Some of the chemical leaked into the engine room and efforts to combat the spill were not successful. The Liberian-registered vessel was later flooded adding to the damage and it was only good for scrap.

The 149.43-metre-long ship had been built at Oslo, Norway, in 1966 and came to the Great Lakes as *Birk* in 1967. It was sold to the Hall Corp. of Canada in 1979 and renamed *Coastal Transporter* in January 1980 departing Rotterdam, Holland, with a Canadian crew, but under Liberian registry. It became *Chemical Mar* in 1982 but retained the Hall stack colour.

This tanker did not come to the Great Lakes but served Halco on the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico routes. Following the damage at Curaçao, the ship was sold for scrap and arrived at Brownsville, Texas, to be broken up on March 30, 1983.



Photo: Brownsville, Texas.

PHOTO COURTESY HARRY STOTT

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#NAGARAVOTES2014: Decline in Niagara voter turnout has 'plateaued' at 40%

Most of you won't be heading to the polls

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

There are more than 329,000 Niagarans eligible to vote in next month's municipal election.

Most won't.

"People will say they're too busy — and that's not much of an answer," says Brock University politics professor David Siegel.

Our local civic elections guru has studied voting trends over the years. When people are asked why they didn't mark their ballots, the other big response is they give it that none of the candidates appealed to them.

It's how many of the chronic complainers, those people who like to bash city hall or regional council, typically, don't bother to vote.

But this is one time they can have a say, by helping to those who does get elected to represent their interests and keep an eye on their taxes.

Siegel has compiled a list of voter turnout statistics for Niagara dating back to the 2000 election.

"What the figures say to me is turnout is quite low in Niagara at about 40%."

But, he adds, turnout has "plateaued" at that mark.

"We're no longer facing continual decline."

A variety of factors can influence turnout at the polls, such as issues and candidates.

"Nobody quite knows what the silver bullet is."

A hot mayor's race doesn't necessarily translate into a greater number.

"That doesn't seem to be the be all and end all,"

Siegel says.

In 2000 when St. Catharines' mayor was acclaimed, voter turnout was 27%. The following election three years later, during a close three-way race for mayor, turnout only climbed to 29.7%.

However, when Port Colborne's mayor was acclaimed in 2000 turnout was 29.4% and it jumped to 49.6% in 2003 when the mayor's seat was contested.

Trends over the past four municipal elections in Niagara show Welland, Pelham, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls usually have a turnout of more than 40% of eligible voters.

In Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Erie, voter turnout has been categorized as "erratic" — below 30% and above 40%.

Under the Municipal Elections Act, people have right up until before polls close at 8 p.m. on Oct. 27, at polling stations, to add their names to the voters' list. The best time to do so is during office hours at your local municipal hall.

Some other opportunities will exist depending on where you live. For example, Wellfleet's voters' list will also be available — to add, remove or verify your name — during the Wellfleet Fall Fair at a kiosk on the fairgrounds this Friday and Saturday.

During the period for revisions to the voters' list, which started Sept. 2, a person may make an application to the municipal clerk requesting that their name be added to or removed, or that the information relating to that person be amended. Identification is required.

Sept. 12 was the final day for applications to remove another person's name

VOTER TURNOUT: 2000, '03, '06, '10

(4-election average in brackets)

Port Erie: 29%, 34%, 37%, 41% (35.25%)
Grimsby: 46.1%, 47.3%, 44.8%, 39% (44.3%)
Lincoln: 33.4%, 35.8%, 34%, 37% (35.05%)
Niagara Falls: 40.3%, 47.8%, 41.3%, 43.0% (43.1%)
Niagara-on-the-Lake: N/A, 44%, 47%, 49% (46.667%) (past 3)
Pelham: 42.5%, 49.4%, 48.6%, 45% (46.385%)
Port Colborne: 29.4%,

49.6%, 51.7%, 51% (45.425%)

St. Catharines: 27%, 29.7%, 40.7%, 31% (32.1%)
Thorold: 47.6%, 39%, 40.7%, 40% (41.825%)
Wellfleet: 43.6%, 33.6%, 43.4%, 49% (42.4%)
Welland: 55%, 44.8%, 42.4%, 41% (45.8%)
West Lincoln: 36.8%, 39.3%, 37.3%, 37% (38.1%)
Niagara Average: 39.3%, 41.2%, 42.4%, 41.9% (41.3668%)
— Source: Brock University

from the list.

Siegel's advice to people who will be exercising their democratic rights and want to make informed decisions on election day?

"A lot of candidates are using social media, so (voters) should be getting on the social media sites and

making comparisons," he says.

"People should start following now."



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#NIAGARAVOTES2014

10 vying for four Wainfleet alderman spots

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Although Wainfleet is Niagara's largest municipality in terms of geography, measuring 217 square kilometres, it continues to have at-large elections for its four aldermanic seats — there are no wards.

There are about 5,925 eligible voters, who this year are encouraged to mark

their ballots by mail.

In the last municipal election, there were 5,721 eligible voters and 2,796 turned out at the polls, representing 48.9%.

Voter turnout was 43.4% in 2006, 33.6% in 2003 and 43.6% in 2000.

The mayor serves also as the township's sole representative on regional council.

Ten candidates are running to become alderman — although 11 names will appear on the ballot.

ALDERMANIC CANDIDATES

John Dekker

Age: 60

Occupation: Farmer
Family: Married 38 years to Ann VanDoorn, four children, six grandchildren

Previous political experience: 22 years as a Catholic school board trustee

Community work: Volunteer for Jericho House, member of Knights of Columbus, church leader St. Elizabeth parish

Top issue: Political

management of the township.

Why I'm running: To maintain the agricultural character of Wainfleet.

Why voters should choose me: Team leader with 22 years' experience.

Contact info: 905-835-5259



RICHARD DYKSTRA

Richard Dykstra

Age: 44

Occupation: Equipment delivery person for Ben Berge in Wainfleet and full-time cash crop farmer in Wainfleet

Family: Married to Nancy for 21 years; chil-

dren Meghan, 19; Ryan, 18; Wesley, 15; and Hannah, 11

Previous political experience: finishing first term as alderman, deputy mayor (2010-11), alternate for the mayor on the Emergency Response Community Control Team.

Community work: Past board member of Wainfleet Minor Hockey, volunteer at the elementary school in Wainfleet as well as Wainfleet Fall Fair.

Top issue: The top issue for me is the declining population and smart development of our hamlets and keeping agricultural land preserved.

Continued on Page 8

Are You Concerned About Your Heart Health and Maybe Sexual Health too?

It's one of those ailments that no one wants to talk about, yet according to the AMA, 43% of women and 31% of men suffer from sexual dysfunction! Sexual dysfunction is defined as the inability to fully enjoy sexual intercourse. Women generally experience a loss of libido (sexual drive) and/or the inability or difficulty in achieving an orgasm. Men experience it as impotence, known as erectile dysfunction.



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Ways of Making The Philadelphia Story, Photo by David Cooper

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by W. Gifford-Jones M.D.

There's an old saying, "If you don't go when you gotta go, by the time you get to go, you've already gone!" Millions of North Americans, if they've never heard this expression, know all too well what I'm referring to, urinary incontinence. Now, Japanese researchers claim that pumpkin seeds are the answer to many urinary problems. But who hasn't carved up pumpkins and tossed the seeds away?

Urinary troubles come in many ways to both men and women. Many women, following childbirth, suffer from weakened pelvic muscles. The complaint is that coughing, sneezing or even getting up quickly from a chair results in wetting themselves and they fear becoming a social outcast.

But more people of both sexes are afflicted with OAB (overactive bladder). They seek relief from daytime and nighttime urinary frequency which becomes more of a problem with advancing age. The result is lack of sleep, depression and often leakage of urine on their clothes.

It's estimated that one in six adults over the age of 40 is affected by OAB, and by age 70 it affects 48 percent of women and 17 percent of men.

The cause for older women is often a combination of problems particularly after menopause. Childbirth sets the stage with weakened vaginal muscles causing, in time, a falling of the bladder wall. But, in addition, a lack of estrogen causes thinning of the bladder lining and thence the urge to void.

For men, urinary incontinence is often associated with enlargement of the prostate gland. Or it may occur following radical prostate surgery or radiation therapy for prostate malignancy. Comments from patients indicate this happens more often than reported because patients who wet themselves are much more aware of this annoyance than the doctor who performed the surgery, and are embarrassed by it.

Conventional medicine can help many female patients by surgery to repair damaged pelvic muscles. Prescription drugs are also available to decrease bladder spasm, but are often associated with side-effects. In addition, oral estrogen along with vaginal estrogen creams such as Premarin or Vagifem tablets are helpful in building up the bladder lining. Unfortunately these helpful remedies are often overlooked by doctors.

But what about "Ultimate Bladder Control" using water soluble pumpkin seed extract? In 1578 a European herbal encyclopedia mentioned the use of pumpkins seeds to treat urinary problems. Pumpkin seeds have also been used by Native American tribes for years to "facilitate the passage of urine".

More recently Japanese researchers claim that this natural remedy decreases urinary incontinence by 79 percent, daytime incontinence by 39 percent and nighttime urination by 68 percent.

But what's so magic about pumpkins seeds? Studies show that the seeds

contain fat and water soluble portions. Researchers report it's the water soluble portion of the seed that supplies the punch to ease urinary symptoms. By inhibiting the aromatase enzyme, it creates a tissue building effect on the pelvic floor muscles. It's believed that this may make more testosterone available to strengthen and build back the urinary tract muscles.

The water-soluble part of the pumpkin seed also binds to the androgen receptor on pelvic muscles cells. This strengthens the female bladder wall to limit the amount of urine left in the bladder after voiding.

Pumpkin seed extract plays another important role in the production of nitric oxide (NO) which has a relaxing effect on both arteries and muscles. This allows for better urinary control. For instance, when the bladder is full, NO is needed to relax the muscles allowing urination. But if NO is in short supply, the bladder becomes hyperactive resulting in frequent urination.

In males, pumpkin seed extract may not cause a decrease in the size of the prostate gland, but by decreasing inflammation, it improves urinary flow.

Years ago no one carving a pumpkin would have dreamed that its seeds contained so much power to control bladder problems. But like drugs that decrease pain, any improvement in either incontinence, urinary frequency or a reduced urge to go, can make life more livable.



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#NAGARAVOTES2014

10 vying for four Wainfleet alderman spots

From previous page

Community work: Founding member of Wainfleet Ratepayers Association; board member for Youth without Secure Housing, Niagara South Health Care Coalition, Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, and several committees; former board member and chair of Port Colborne/Wainfleet Healthy Lifestyles Coalition (now defunct).

Top Issue: Developing a strategic plan for the township that will move the township forward with careful economic development, while maintaining that rural identity we all love.

Why I am running: There is still much to do now that the bigger issues seem to be looked after. More health care, economic development, fire, master plan, water testing along the lakeshore, and the floodplain issue along the Welland River—all issues I would like to be a part in solving.

Why voters should choose me: I give 100% of any problem I am presented with and will work hard to find an outcome that works for all those concerned. I am willing to listen and consider all sides of an issue. Working as part of a team for the best outcome for Wainfleet is a priority.

Contact info: 905-634-1143, 905-380-6432, blmcneil@smileplanet.ca, blmcneil@wainfleet.ca



BETTY KONC



JOHN MACLELLAN

John MacLellan
Age 57
Occupation: Licensed electrician

Family: Devoted spouse with three children, two step-children and three grandchildren.

Previous political experience: None

Community work: Member of the Wainfleet recreation committee, member of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority floodplain implementation committee

Top issue: Fiscal responsibility
Why I'm running: To offer a practical and common sense approach to local government.

Why voters should choose me: My business experience has given me strong problem-solving skills and has taught me to make difficult decisions. I will work hard and honestly for the greater good of the Township of Wainfleet.

Contact info: 905-735-9668,

h.johnmaclellan@hotmail.com

LeAnne Robins
Age 41
Occupation: Home-maker

Family: Husband Brad and daughters Evie, 8, and Maddie, 5
Previous political experience: None

Community work: I volunteer for Marshville Heritage Festival, Marshville Christmas in the Village, Winger School breakfast program, Winger School's annual pasta dinner and Pumpkinfest and I also run the home reading program at Winger School.

Top issue: I'd like to make better use of our facilities such as getting more programs at the fire hall, offering more free or public skate time and making sure Wainfleet softball doesn't go away again. I'd also like to ensure that Marshville Festival stays strong and breath some new life into the Wainfleet Fall Fair.

Why I'm running: I am enthusiastic and I'd like to bring a fresh new voice and ideas to council.

Why voters should choose me: I am hard working and dedicated to tasks that I take on and I see them to fruition. I am also very friendly and approachable and I hope to be an open door for people to bring their concerns or issues, too.

Contact info: 905-396-7411, leanne@robinsonsm.com, leanne@robinsonsm.com/LeAnneRobinsforAlderman



LEANNE ROBINS

Frank Smeenk
Age 59
Occupation: Packaged goods sales consultant

Family: Married to Margaret for 36 years
Previous political experience: First time candidate, volunteer on previous municipal and provincial campaigns

Community work: Wainfleet official plan committee member, Shalom Manor family council chair

Top issue: Providing required services for a very diverse community in a measured way by widening the tax base while not increasing the individual tax burden.

Why I'm running: To offer an alternative, experienced, transparent business to council decision making.

Continued on next page

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MONTHLY FEATURE

■ #NIAGARAVOTES2014: Efforts made to reach all residents and cottage owners

For Wainfleet, the ballot is in the mail

GREG FURMINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

It's very likely that Wainfleet will have its highest voter turnout ever. And results should be known far sooner than for previous elections, when the hand-counting of ballots have dragged on into the early morning hours of the next day.

Wainfleet has made a switch to mail-in voting.

While turnout for the 2010 election was a respectable 48.9%, that meant only half of the township's eligible voters touched a ballot.

"In this kind of balloting, I'm going to have a ballot in pretty much 100% of people's hands," says the municipality's CAO and clerk, Scott Luey.

"We're looking for ways to increase accessibility to voters and get the turnout higher."

Not just for people with mobil-

ity issues, or those who can't vote on Oct. 27, but out-of-town residents who own land in Wainfleet, such as cottage owners.

Toronto-based DataFix, which is supplying the ballots and voters' list, mailed out ballots last week.

Each registered eligible voter will receive a mail-in voting kit containing instructions and a voter declaration form, a ballot, a white secrecy envelope in which to place the ballot, and a yellow postage-paid return envelope.

The kits should be received no later than Oct. 10.

Marked ballots should be put in the mail for township hall no later than Oct. 18.

After that, and at any time before 8 p.m. on election day, they can also be dropped off at the township hall, including by using the after-hours

tax-deposit slot which leads to a locked room.

Residents are also being provided with a pictorial guide on how to complete and return their ballots, with a separate info sheet, and a video on the subject can be found at www.wainfleet.ca under the 2014 Elections tab.

On election day, there will be just one "traditional" polling station in the Moore Room of the arena for people whose kits ended up damaged, who weren't on the voter's list at the time kits were mailed and because "there is an element that doesn't like change."

"This time there's only one place — but I'm giving you every day of the month" to vote, Luey says.

Results should be known quickly on Oct. 27.

Four electronic tabulators form

Pickering-based Election Systems & Software Canada will be used to count votes — and starting prior to the close of voting on election night.

Luey says 10 municipal elections workers and two municipal staffers will be locked in a room starting at about 5 p.m. to begin tabulating ballots that were returned in the days prior.

"We're hoping to tabulate every vote that was cast by mail before 8 o'clock."

All results should be known by 9 p.m., he says.

Grimshy conducted its past two municipal elections by mail, but this year has switched to Internet voting.

"There are about 150 municipalities in Ontario that do vote-by-mail, which is about a third," Luey says.

greg.furminger@summedia.ca
Twitter: @GregATheTrio

10 vying for four Wainfleet alderman spots

From previous page

Why voters should choose me: A new positive advocate for all Wainfleet and champion of the individual.

Contact info: 905-899-3157, fws-meekn@gmail.com, www.franksmeenksalderman.com, www.facebook.com/FrankWMeekn

Jo-An Stewart

Withdrawn from race due to job change to Whitehorse. Her name will appear on the ballot. "So please don't vote for me."

David Wyatt

Age: 55

Occupation:

Financial adviser

Family: Married with two children

Previous political

experience: Alderman in Wainfleet, first degree in political science (major in international politics/finance), second degree in business international finance

Community work: Coached soccer and hockey, president of Wainfleet Agricultural Society, past member of Wainfleet Historical Society

Top issue: Infrastructure planning for the future

Why I'm running: There is still much work to be done and there is need to have someone on council who can create a viable and sustainable vision for Wainfleet for future generations.

Why voters should choose me: As a financial planner and one who has helped guide the Wainfleet Fall Fair to become a growing, viable venture, I have the skills to generate visionary planning along with deep-rooted involvement in Wainfleet.

Contact info: 905-899-0354, dwyatt@hotmail.com, Facebook at David Wyatt



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■ WIND TURBINES: PowerBlades

Opening green energy doors

DAN DAKIN

QMI Agency Niagara

They look like giants sculpted to be hollow. Like giant caverns big enough for a person to stand straight up in. But thick fibreglass ribs run through them — eliminating flex and adding strength.

Inside a massive factory on Rusholme Rd. in Welland, PowerBlades has been cranking out these behemoth wind turbine blades since July.

A workforce of 140 people use large cranes and super-expensive machinery to produce one 45-metre-long, 6,000-kilogram blade every two days. It takes three to equip a single turbine, and they must be equally weighted to near perfection.

PowerBlades, and its parent company Servion, opened the

doors of its 339,000-square-foot factory to the public Saturday as part of an Ontario-wide Green Energy Doors Open day.

The company's managing director, Dan Dragoman, said Welland was picked as a host city for a reason.

"Welland is strategically located," he said. "We have easy access to the highways, the canal if we need it and we're close to the U.S."

Less than 18 months since the company started converting the former steel tube factory into an energy-efficient production line, Dragoman said the company would like to hire another 100 workers in the next two years.

Servion has just launched a new 3 MW wind turbine that uses 55 and 59 metre blades. PowerBlades is hoping the turbines will get popular in North America, which would mean a demand for the Welland factory to add more workers to

produce the longer blades.

"Depending on the economic conditions we would like to launch a second line," said Dragoman.

He said government decisions over green energy also play a role in the success of a company like PowerBlades, which is at the mercy of the Green Energy Act in Ontario.

"The political climate is linked to the market because it's heavily regulated," said Maïke Althaus, who handles communications and government relations for Servion. "As an investor, you always need a certain degree of stability. The more stable it is, the better it is for someone who is coming in and investing."

While the message from PowerBlades officials and local politicians was about the positive results of the growing wind manufacturing industry in the region, some tourists brought the facility Saturday

DAN DAKIN/
STAFF PHOTO

A group of people watch as a piece of machinery opens up to reveal a 45-metre wind turbine blade being manufactured at PowerBlades in Welland.

what happens to a 6,000-kilogram blade at the end of its two-year life span.

Dragoman said they can be melted down for use in concrete, but the question was a reminder that wind turbines remain a controversial subject.

Welland MPP Cindy Foster said she hasn't heard

many complaints in the city of Welland, but knows elsewhere in her riding, where wind farms are being built, there are many who don't support them.

"Part of it is people in Welland have put up with manufacturing for years and they accept it if you want manufacturing in your community

you put up with some annoyances," she said. "In Wellfleet, although they're opposed to hosting (wind farms), they haven't shown any negativity toward Welland for producing the blades."

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■ **BUSINESS SERVICES:** Welland-Pelham brings in Port Colborne-Wainfleet chamber

Fabiano now leading three chambers of commerce

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

Dolores Fabiano is wearing another hat these days — as the figurehead of a third chamber of commerce.

The longtime Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce executive director, who in December assumed that role for Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, is now also interim executive director of Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce.

"We're all still individual chambers, we're just sharing

services," she said.

The Port Colborne-Wainfleet chamber was a one-person operation. That ended Sept. 17 following the resignation of executive director Jackie Jaroslowski.

Fabiano, who has been at the helm of the Welland-Pelham Chamber since 1990, said stakeholders are looking into perhaps staffing the Port Colborne office, in the tourism plan.

building at Lock 8, on a part-time basis.



DOLORES FABIANO

The partnership for now entails the downtown Welland chamber office providing administrative, marketing and special events planning duties for Port Colborne-Wainfleet.

"We're going to try it and see how well it works," she said of a six-month

Fabiano dismissed suggestion that a unified chamber of commerce for Niagara's southern tier could be in the forecast.

"It's not even up for consideration, she said Monday.

She said the current arrangements are "really about helping each other and ensuring each community has a strong voice."

She said those voices could be diminished if amalgamated into a larger organization.

"You really just can't take a

cookie-cutter approach," she added, "because the communities each have their own culture."

Fabiano's new responsibilities couldn't have come at a busier time.

"For the month of October, there's something happening every night."

Her calendar includes election candidates meet-and-greet nights hosted by the chambers, Business After 5 events, and the Welland-Pelham chamber's Ruby Awards night on Friday, Oct. 17.

Eight of the region's chambers of commerce converge for Niagara Networks, the region's biggest local business gathering, in Niagara Falls on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort.

On Tuesday, Oct. 21, the Welland-Pelham chamber presents its local economic briefing, at a breakfast being served at Lookout Point Country Club in Pelham.

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Twitter: @GregJThefib

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POLICING

NRP among most overstaffed services in Canada: report

DAN DAKIN
Tribune Staff

A new report on policing in Canada says the Niagara Regional Police are the fourth-highest over-staffed service in the country. But Chief Jeff McGuire sees it differently.

"I disagree with it. I think we're proportionally staffed for the public safety we have to provide for the region," he said.

The report released Monday by the Fraser Institute put the NRP behind only Saint John, N.B., Winnipeg and Windsor on the list of the most over-staffed services in Canada. Kelowna, Moncton and Ottawa-Gatineau led the list for the most under-staffed services.

The report studied StatsCan data focusing on crime rates, population and socio-economic factors.

It found criminal code incidents per officer in Canada dropped by 36.8% between 1986 and 2012, though the policing costs per person in Canada rose by 45.5% per person.

"Of course, declining crime rates are a good thing, and some may attribute those declining rates to an increase in police spending. But in reality, some Canadian districts maintain substantially larger police forces than their crime rates warrant while other districts maintain smaller forces despite relatively high rates of crime," wrote the report's author Livio Di Matteo, a Fraser Institute senior fellow and economics professor at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. "As municipalities across the country struggle with limited resources, more analysis would focus on the nature and volume of police calls, the arbitration process involving police unions, policing technology and styles, and other factors that determine police staffing levels."

But McGuire said you can't compare regions or the needs of their police services without looking at other contributing factors.

"We have a massive geographic area spread out between urban and rural policing. We have the border, the waterways and we welcome up to 15 million visitors a year," he said. "There are a lot of variables. I will defend the policing service we deliver and the dollars we spend."

When contacted by QMI Agency Tuesday, Di Matteo said he understands not all factors could be taken into account.

"The regression only explains some of the variations in staffing and crime rates," he said. "There is an awful lot that is unexplained and there are confounding factors. I don't go into detail for each community."

Di Matteo said police services or municipalities that don't agree with the findings can dig deeper into the study to look for answers.

"When your actual number differs from your predicted number, part of it could be that you have unique or exceptional police requirements that aren't captured by the model ... and perhaps there could be an efficiency component there."

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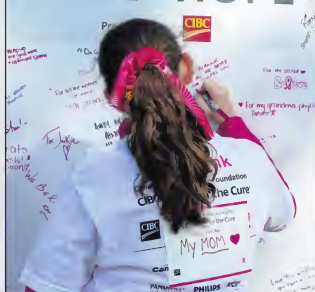
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The Niagara edition of the 2014 Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure was held at Brock University Sunday. There were 906 people and 74 teams taking part, raising more than \$137,000. Breast cancer remains the most common form of the disease in Canadian women over the age of 20.

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Daily physical activity is the regular use that your heart needs to continue functioning properly. According to Canada's Physical Activity Guidelines, adults 18-64 should be doing a total of at least 150 minutes of aerobic activity each week. Aim for about 30 minutes of exercise on most days of the week. Activities may include brisk walking, bike riding, dancing, or jogging. The best way to get started is to incorporate physical activity into your daily routine. Take the dog for a brisk walk around the block, spend a day at the park with the family on the weekend, do some gardening, or maybe join a dance class and make some new friends too!

Along with a well-balanced diet and daily physical activity, your heart needs a check-up every once in a while. Your doctor can check your weight, blood pressure, cholesterol levels and blood sugar during an appointment to see that your heart is in good working order and may make recommendations to you based on the results.

Drinking too much alcohol, smoking and high levels of stress can also have negative effects on the heart. If you drink alcohol, limit yourself to no more than two drinks a day for women or three drinks a day for men. If you are a smoker, the sooner you become smoke-free, the sooner your body will recover. Talk to your pharmacist about ways to kick the habit. Everyone experiences the feeling of being stressed at some point or another, but the key is how you handle it. It may be as simple as taking a few deep breaths for some people, while others may do daily meditation or practice yoga to remain stress-free. Taking time for yourself each day to do something you enjoy is another way of keeping your stress level to a minimum. Find a new hobby, activity or project that you might enjoy doing either on your own or with friends.

Decide to make one change this month and maybe add another next month. Before long, you'll be right on track to keeping your mind, body and heart happy and healthy.

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ONE NIGHT ONLY!

International "Neil Diamond" Show Coming to Roselawn Theatre

Neil Diamond fans are in for a treat when international touring artist Mark Thomas brings his amazing live show "Neil Diamond: The Greatest Hits Tribute" to the intimate Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne on Saturday October 18 @ 8:00pm. Thomas has performed his critically acclaimed show in theatres across North America and Europe and is highly regarded for his portrayal of Neil, which captures both the look and striking Baritone voice of Diamond himself.

Thomas performs an audience interactive show, and backed by The Memphis Cats band including the incredible Bruce Tournay on piano, he performs all of Neil Diamonds' classic hits including "Song Sung Blue", "Cracklin Rosie", "You Don't Bring Me Flowers", "Hello Again", "America", "I'm A Believer", "Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon", "I Am...I Said", "Shilo", "Holly Holy", "Solitary Man" and of course "Sweet Caroline" amongst the many audience favourites.



Backed by an amazing live band, the incredible Mark Thomas captures the look and sound of Neil Diamond live in concert.

Tickets to see the incredible Mark Thomas starring in "Neil Diamond: The Greatest Hits Tribute" at the Roselawn Theatre on Saturday October 18 at 8:00pm are on sale now, value-priced at only \$28. Tickets are available for pick-up at the theatre box office, 296 Fielden Avenue Port Colborne, or via phone #905-834-0833. Be sure to get your tickets early for this fantastic show!



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TRANSPORTATION

Region to work with municipalities on inter-municipal transit

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

The goal is finally have a workable and full-fledged inter-municipal transit system in Niagara took another step forward last Thursday.

A week after Niagara Region's public works committee agreed to remove the words "pilot project" of any reference to an inter-municipal transit system, regional councillors approved a five-point concept plan that includes engaging area municipalities on building a region-wide model for all Niagara residents.

By giving staff the go-ahead to continue working with the 12 municipalities, chairman Gary Burroughs said Niagara Region is closer than ever to fixing what he acknowledged has been a "disjointed" system with services scattered across the peninsula.

"Transit is more than just small pieces working together. It needs an overall look," he said.

"Everyone is going to be involved in these discussions and talks will continue to really decide what this looks like and if it's going to be run by the private sector or a transportation organization made up of community players."

The Region initiated an inter-municipal transit pilot project in 2011. At the onset, the region gave \$3.7 million in grants to the Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland transit systems for the purchase of eight buses to be used to connect those municipalities, as well as Fort Erie, Thorold and Port Colborne.

The region has provided additional funding to the transit systems on a yearly basis since the pilot program began.

The program was initially set to end this fall, but was extended until September 2015.

Area municipalities would like the region to play a role, not necessarily in generating the service, but in facilitating, providing funding, co-ordinating customer service, ensuring access to social services and providing consistency with planning and economic development objectives.

The hope is to have a functional transit system that would, for example, allow workers in one area of the region to access a job in another. It could also be a key factor in convincing the province to extend daily GO rail service to Niagara.

Also on the GO file, the region backed Grimsby's official plan to protect a corridor along the railway tracks for future GO expansion.

"We have now confirmed what Grimsby wants in the development of their community," said Burroughs.

"It helps protect green space and it also protects the GO corridor Grimsby, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls are the ideal stops for GO train."

The region's decision on inter-municipal transit prompted Niagara Falls' NDP MPP Wayne Gates to issue a statement challenging the province to approve regular GO train service to Niagara.

"With Niagara regional council committing to permanent inter-municipal regional transit, it's time for Premier (Kathleen) Wynne to do her part by bringing daily, two-way GO train service to Niagara," he said. "Niagara community leaders are united when it comes to bringing daily GO train service to Niagara."

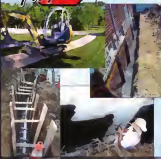
Gates called on the province to commit to a "clear timeline for delivery."

— with files by Rob Houle

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Fundraisers planned to control cat population

Port Colborne Feline Initiative recently saw its 1,000th cat treated

through its spay and neuter programs. To continue its efforts to control the local cat population, the group is hosting a series of fundraisers in the coming months.

The PCFI Fall Yard Sale takes place Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Patrick's church hall, 123 King St. Donations

of gently-used items, refundable bottles and baked goods can be brought to the hall Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On Nov. 1, the group's annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre event will be held at the hall. Cost is \$25. Tickets are available at Harmony on West, 264 West St., or by calling 905-834-

2288.
PCFI's Fat Cat Raffle runs until Dec. 15 and includes a grand prize of a wine fridge stocked with 29 bottles. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20 and are available at JB Fashions, 30 Clarence St., in Port Colborne, and Pat Valu, 210 Glendale Ave. in St. Catharines





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IN BRIEF

Port Colborne launches Xmas card contest

Port Colborne is again relying on the creativity of local children to brighten the holiday season. The lakeside city is hosting its annual community

Christmas card contest and is asking youths to submit a drawing or painting of their best interpretation of Christmas in Port Colborne. The image must be submitted on a letter-size piece of paper in vertical or horizontal format. Paint, pencils, crayons, pastels or markers can be used.

The contest is open to all children who live or go to school in Port Colborne, up to and including those in Grade 8. All submissions must be received by the mayor's office at city hall by Friday, Oct. 24, at 4:30 p.m. The child's name, address and telephone number should be included on the back of the artwork.

For more information, contact Nancy Giles at 905-835-2501 ext. 301 or e-mail nancygiles@portcolborne.ca. Mailed submissions can be sent to 66 Charlotte St., Port Colborne, L3K 3G8.

Fort Erie men charged with sexual assault

Two Fort Erie men have been charged with sexual assault

after an investigation by Niagara Regional Police. James Greville, 50, and Austin Kahgee, 24, are charged in the incident which allegedly occurred Sept. 12 in Fort Erie. The reported victim is an acquaintance of the accused. Both men were to appear in court in St. Catharines Wednesday for a bail hearing.

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Tragically Hip to play at Meridian Centre this winter

DOM FRASER
QMI Agency Niagara

One Canada's best-loved bands is set to rock the Meridian Centre on Tuesday, Feb. 17

The Tragically Hip's St. Catharines appearance is part of their Fully and Completely tour.

Fully Completely is the band's third full-length album, originally released on Oct. 6, 1992. Hit singles from the album include Locked in the Trunk of a Car, Courage and At the Hundreth Meridian. The tour commemorates

the re-issue of the album and includes major venues in the U.S. and Canada, where Fully Completely will be played in its entirety.

"Twitter is blowing up this morning, everyone is so excited to have the Hip come to town, Kay Melleur, Meridian Centre's director of marketing, said following Monday's announcement.

"The great thing about seeing them here is the intimate feeling of the Meridian Centre — you can't help but feel up-close, and personal."

Tickets for the North American dates of the tour are set to go on sale Saturday, Oct. 18, at 10 a.m.

Tragically Hip was last in Niagara in a major concert at

Butler's Barracks in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 30, 2012. It was attended by more than 17,000 people and raised about \$65,000 for Parks Canada, which partnered with AEC Live to present the event tied in to Canada Day.

Go to www.thehip.com for the Fully and Completely Tour ticket information.

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■ 7TH ANNUAL NMAS IN NIAGARA FALLS

Deadmau5 surprise visit

JOHN LAW
QMI Agency/Niagara

With his calendar open this week, Deadmau5 decided to come home last week for the Niagara Music Awards.

Coming from Toronto to pick up his special achievement award in person, Niagara Falls-born Joel Zimmerman was mighty impressed by the local music scene's annual party.

"I wish they had this when I was around," said the world-renowned electronic music producer. "The closest thing we had was the A.N. Myer talent show."

Zimmerman thrilled show organizers when he twirled earlier in the day he was on his way to the show. "Stop by and support your local artists!" he urged in the tweet.

Watching the show beside the stage, Zimmerman said the awards "mean a lot" to the artists. He ended up handing

THE WINNERS ARE...

Adult Contemporary Artist of the Year: Cory Cruise

Engineer of the Year: Straight South

Instrumentalist of the Year: The Rio Trio

Hip Hop Artist of the Year: The KaC Himself

Music Video of the Year: Avenue Inn

Best New Group: Ivy Coast

Original Group of the Year: Theatre Crisp

Original Song of the Year: Philip Bosley

New Artist of the Year: Carina Frammartino

Rock Group of the Year: Stereo Sunrise

Best Bar Band: Vinyl Flux

Songwriter of the Year:

out five awards, including for album of the year and electronic dance music artist of the year.

Kyle Petch
Male Vocalist of the Year: James Underwood

Female Vocalist of the Year: Jane Baker

People's Choice (online vote): Cory Cruise

Folk Artist of the Year: RK Walker and the Little Lines

Producer of the Year: Ruben Arancibia

Electronic Music Artist of the Year: The Status Update

Progressive Rock Band of the Year: Avenue Inn

Album of the Year: Theatre Crisp

Special Achievement Awards: Deadmau5, Ron Sexsmith, Dallas Green

Zimmerman mingled with the crowd and even took photos of hip-hop artist The KaC. Himself, who wore a Dead-

mau5 shirt for his performance.

"I'm so excited," said show co-organizer Edn Visentin. "To have [Joel] here really speaks volumes."

Earlier in the night, co-organizer Todd Brown was nervous Zimmerman wouldn't show. But even without Deadmau5, the show would have been a rousing success at its new home, Taps Grillhouse on Queen St. in Niagara Falls.

"I feel we're on the cusp of something."

Now in its seventh year, the show remains a pumped up (but not too push) celebration of Niagara's music scene. Twenty awards were handed out, with singer Cory Cruise, funk rockers Theatre Crisp and Niagara Falls' alternative rockers Avenue Inn taking home multiple awards.

Though her band The Mandevilles wasn't up for any awards, singer Serena Pryne attended to show support for



JOHN LAW /
NIAGARA FALLS
REVIEW
Joel Zimmerman attended Tuesday's Niagara Music Awards in Niagara Falls, where he received a Special Achievement Award.

the scene. She has been a regular since the first show in 2008.

"They make you feel like you're doing something right," she said. "(Sometimes) it's hard to know when you're on the right track."

Joseph Minicucci, guitarist for best bar band repeat winners Vinyl Flux, said the annual show "keeps us young."

Every year, he's "thrilled" to see Niagara musicians of all ages gather for the night, all showing mutual respect.

"This is way better than what we had when we were younger. It's much more sophisticated," he said. "What we could have done with this!"

john.law@summedia.ca

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THE RECORD MATTERS

BADAWEY: BIG ON HEADLINES, LITTLE ON DELIVERY



the site then ... and now.

NINE-STOREY HOTEL PLANNED FOR PORT COLBORNE

(Welland Tribune June 4, 2010)

"Badawey said the planning will be a great compliment to the Health and Wellness Centre ... 'for what we put out for the city, we get a great return back.'"



the site then ... and now.

NEW DEVELOPMENT COMING TO PORT COLBORNE

(Niagara This Week March 05, 2012)

"The City of Port Colborne announced a deal that will see a residential development of over 950 units coming to Port Colborne. The development is currently known as Rosemount Estates. 'It's great news for the city, and quite frankly, it's well overdue,' said mayor Vance Badawey."



the site then ... and now.

PORT COLBORNE ENERGY PARK (NYON) RETURNS TO LIMELIGHT

(Niagara This Week Jun 10, 2012)

"Mayor Vance Badawey pointed to a revenue sharing agreement that could see significant funds come back to the city coffers. Though not getting into specifics, Badawey called the deal 'extensive'."



the site then ... and now.

GERMAN COMPANY WANTS TO CREATE 150 PORT COLBORNE JOBS

(Welland Tribune June 6, 2013)

"The unidentified company is planning to create 150 jobs, and that does not include jobs created through construction of the plant."

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